

Little Isle of Malta Starts New Trend in Political Moves

By CHARLES M. McCANN
United Press Staff Writer
The little Mediterranean island of Malta, which made itself a

Statewide Alert Starts in Michigan For Escaped Slayer

Ionia, Mich. — (U.P.) — Authorities ordered a statewide alert today in the search for a "definitely dangerous" murderer who escaped the Michigan State Reformatory in a storybook fashion.

Deputy Warden George Kropp said James Vincent Ecker, 19, Saginaw, Mich., made his getaway Tuesday by hiding in a packing crate in which a prison-made desk was being shipped outside the prison.

He said Ecker, serving a life sentence for the slaying of Mrs. Verda J. Odum, Mt. Morris, Mich., in March, 1953, was "a bad one we didn't want to lose." "He is definitely dangerous and probably armed with at least a knife," Kropp said. "We tried to keep a pretty close eye on him, especially after we heard rumors that he was going to try an escape."

Kropp said Ecker was working in the upholstery section of the prison furniture factory and was reported missing during a routine check when the plant closed for the night.

Further checking revealed that Ecker was last seen shortly before the desk was shipped out on a commercial trucking line. A check of the trucking firm revealed that the packing case had a hole in it large enough to allow Ecker to crawl out.

Kropp said Ecker was involved in a thwarted escape attempt at the prison last November.

Police concentrated their search on numerous wooded areas around the prison. "We figure he laid low in one of the wooded areas for the night," they said. "We hope to catch him when he makes his move."

Kropp said prison authorities would question the inmates who worked with Ecker on the theory that one of them must have helped him and might be able to give some information about his plans.

"Someone must have helped him enclose himself in that crate," he said. "Who ever it was probably knows what he planned to do after he got outside."

symbol of heroic resistance in World War II, has started a new political trend.

Other colonial territories all over the world are clamoring for independence.

Malta, however, demands that it be linked more closely to Great Britain, politically and economically, and that it be given direct representation in the British Parliament.

It is questionable whether the parliamentary representation could be conceded.

But authoritative sources are quoted as saying that negotiations now in progress in London may set a pattern for the future government of British commonwealth islands all over the world.

Bermuda, Gibraltar, Mauritius in the Indian Ocean, Hong Kong, and Fiji in the South Pacific are mentioned as among those which might be affected.

The London negotiations are being conducted by Alan Lennox-Boyd, the British colonial secretary, and Dom Mintoff, the new prime minister of Malta.

Strange Revolution
Mintoff, a 39-year-old architect who is the leader of the Malta Labor Party, is sometimes referred to as the most revolutionary of the island's leaders.

It is a strange sort of revolution, however, that Mintoff wants. He asks that Malta be given a status something like that of Northern Ireland and that its economy be merged with that of Britain.

The big reason behind Malta's desire for a change is that its economy is now linked too intimately with the requirements of the British navy, air force and army, and of the southern command of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Marie McDonald Wed Again To Millionaire

Hollywood — (U.P.) — Shapely film beauty Marie (The Body) McDonald risked another siege of illness today and honeymooned with multimillionaire shoe manufacturer Harry Karl whom she once divorced because she said she was allergic to him.

Miss McDonald's mother, Mrs. Marie Tuboni, disclosed here Tuesday night that her daughter and the shoe store magnate, who reconciled last winter, were remarried in Yuma, Ariz., a week ago.

The actress, when she won a Nevada divorce from Karl last fall along with a \$500,000 settlement, said she had abandoned hopes of living with the shoe magnate because she was allergic to him.

The island is dependent upon the fluctuating demand of the fighting services for labor and some goods. It wants to get the benefit of Britain's liberal social welfare services.

Ancient Civilization
There is also the fact that Maltese people are sensitive over their "colonial" status. Malta is a crown colony. But its people do not like to think of themselves as on a par with colonies, say, in Africa. They are highly civilized people. They were civilized, in fact, about 1,500 years before Britons were—their history goes back to the Phoenicians who peopled it in remote pre-Christian days.

The island is tiny—only 17½ miles long and 9 miles wide. It has two even tinier satellite islets. But it has a population of about 317,000 and it is one of the important ports of call in the world.

In World War II Malta stood up unflinchingly for three years against merciless Italian and German aerial bombings. It was 1,000 miles from the nearest British positions for a while and could be supplied only by submarine.

In April, 1942, King George VI decorated the island as a whole with the George Cross, the highest British civil award, for "heroism and devotion that will long be famous in history." In 1947, in further recognition of Malta's gallantry, it was given a greater measure of self-government.

Communications
Letters to the Editor must bear the name and address of the writer although under certain circumstances the use of a pen name or initial for publication is permissible. The Mail Tribune reserves the right to edit all letters with an eye to clarification and condensation. Letters submitted for publication must not exceed 400 words.

Vote Again and Again and Again
To the Editor: Laws concerning elections for district budgeting and bonding are "fearfully and wonderfully made." For example the Central Point Rural Fire District. It was organized by promoters who had their eye on the fat salaried jobs at the top. So, seeing how easily they may be obtained they wanted an election to create another station with its accompanying fat positions. The property owners voted to defeat the proposal 84 to 37.

Under former laws that would have settled the matter. Not so under this modern law. The Fire Chief and his easily swayed board of directors weren't satisfied with the election results and call for another election in less than a month to vote on the same question.

I inquired from some legal authority in the court house what they could do under this law and was told they may call election after election until they obtain results satisfactory to them. I asked what recourse the property owners have in case they were dissatisfied and was told they have none whatever.

Fellow property owners in the district—go down to the station on the 23rd and defeat this measure again. And if after repeated elections you get tired of voting and let it carry, then get your property out of the district before the sheriff is called in to liquidate your business.

H. E. Conger,
Rt. 2, Box 403,
Medford, Ore.

Voices Appreciation
To the Editor: I want to express my sincere appreciation to all of the Medford Squadron Civil Air Patrol members who donated their time to answer the call for assistance on the Civil Defense Alert held on Wednesday morning, June 15. Senior members assisting were Bette E. Miller, Joyce Williams and Robert McCorkle.

Cadet members participating were: Kenneth Potucek, Ralph Stinson, Nancy Arant, Arnold Dillon, Terry Krinock, Kenneth Juveneman, Stanley Zwan, Roger Carson, Jack Larson, Barbara Glenn, Donna Walker, Jane Daniels, Mary Daniels, Ben Craig, Gwen Miller, Jerry Conner.

It is gratifying to know that there are individuals who are willing to donate time from their jobs and homes to insure that our country will be prepared for an emergency, whether it be a war or peace time emergency.

Marella J. Luschen,
Capt., CAP
Commanding Officer,
Medford Squadron.

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